

Remarks

The Office action mailed March 24, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and the comments of the examiner considered. Claims 1, 3-10, 15, 17-25, 27-29 and 96-101 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Wofford et al. (U.S. 5,750,823) combined with Duncan et al. (US-A-2005/0002842). Claims 13-14, 16, 30-32, 34-35, 37-40, 42-43, 45-62 and 80-92 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Wofford et al. (U.S. 5,750,823) combined with Duncan et al. (US-A-2005/0002842) and Arno et al. (U.S. 6,423,284). These rejections are traversed for the reason set forth below.

The earliest possible effective reference date for Duncan et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is December 6, 2001, which is the filing date of the parent application (09/683,267) from which Duncan et al. claims priority. The application filing date of the present application is July 11, 2001, which is before December 6, 2001. Thus, Duncan et al. is not prior art against the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Accordingly, the pending §103 rejections must be withdrawn.

Should there be any questions regarding this application, Examiner Johnson is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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